

The Independent Clause

6b. An **independent** (or **main**) **clause** expresses a complete thought and can stand by itself as a sentence.

EXAMPLES Sheldon can make homemade pizzas.

Sheldon can make homemade pizzas, and he made one for me.

EXERCISE A Underline the independent clause or clauses in each of the following sentences.

Examples 1. Sheldon made whole-wheat pizza dough, and then he spread the dough in a pan.

2. He used a nonstick pan because he wanted cleanup to be easy.

1. After he prepared the dough, Sheldon washed mushrooms, green peppers, and an onion.
2. He peeled the onion, and he chopped the vegetables into bite-size chunks.
3. The next step was sautéing the vegetables until they were tender.
4. I wanted to make myself useful, so I grated the mozzarella and Parmesan cheese.
5. Now we had two bowls of ingredients, which were the vegetables and the cheese.
6. I also opened a jar of pizza sauce, and I spread the sauce on the dough.
7. Then came the fun part!
8. Sheldon spread the vegetables evenly across the sauce, and I added the cheese on top.
9. After baking at 450° for twenty-five minutes, the pizza was ready.
10. What a delicious pizza it was!

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word group by writing above it *I* for *independent clause* or *NI* for *not an independent clause*.

Example 1. ^{NI} Since I met you, I've become more interested in baseball.

11. I never watched baseball games on television before meeting you.
12. We then watched games for several weekends in a row.
13. Now I understand the game much better.
14. When the game makes sense, it is suspenseful and enjoyable.
15. Since I have never played baseball, you can teach me!